

**III. Remarks****A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2**

The Action rejects claims 20-43 as being indefinite for referring to “said applying means” rather than “said means for applying a layer of bicomponent fibers”, “said depositing means” instead of “said means for depositing bicomponent fibers”, “said deposition chamber” instead of “said bicomponent fiber deposition chamber” and “said chamber” instead of “said bicomponent fiber deposition chamber.”

Applicants respectfully disagree as to whether these claims are indefinite, and submit that is common to refer back to “means for [function]” as “[function] means” or to refer to an introduced noun, e.g., “chamber,” without all of its modifiers. Nonetheless, because amending these claims does not narrow the claims in anyway, Applicants have presented the following amendments to the claims:

- (i) “applying means” to “means for applying”;
- (ii) “depositing means” to “means for depositing”; and
- (iii) “chamber” and “deposition chamber” to “bicomponent fiber deposition chamber”.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

**B. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter as set forth in claims 26, 35 and 42. Applicants maintain their position regarding the art of record failing to teach or suggest bicomponent fibers and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application toward allowance, the features of claims 26, 35 and 42 have been amended into independent

**PATENT**

**D0932-00434  
[I-8846]**

claims 20, 29 and 38. Claims 25-26, 28, 34-35 and 41-42 have been canceled in accordance with these amendments.

It is submitted the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 are now moot and the application is in condition for allowance at an early date, which action is earnestly solicited.


**C. New Claims**

New claims 44-47 have been added. Support for these claims can be found at, for example, in Paragraphs 27, 28 and 36 and FIGS. 2 and 3 of the application as filed. Examination and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

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